



March 6
Mountain View Club
6 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner
Guest Speaker: Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess
Air Force Safety Center commander

\$20 members, \$22 nonmembers
Contact first sergeants
for tickets.
Menu: chicken picatta
and beef medallions

Dress
Military-Mess Dress
or Semi-formal
Civilian-Business Attire



Photo by Todd Berenger

Party Pig is mobile
Staff Sgt. Joe Guajardo of the 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron visits the mobile Party Pig diner. The mobile eatery is an extension of the restaurant operated by David Meeks in Kirtland AFB's Building 923 on Biggs Avenue.

Party Pig route
Building 1010, 8-8:30 a.m.
Building 1135, 8:30-8:45 a.m.
Building 336, 9 a.m.
Building 20356, 9:15-10 a.m.
Mini-mall (optional stop)
Building 20140 F, next to Autopride, 10 a.m.
West Side Shoppette, 10-10:45 am.
Building 336, 11 a.m.
Custom's Air Traffic Control, 11:15-11:40 a.m.
West Side Shoppette, 11:45 a.m.-noon.

COMMENTARY

Where will you be in thirty years?

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT.
RON FROSETH

Air Force Safety Center

After 30 years, I contemplate how I will react the first day I no longer get up and put on my uniform.

It is a day I have looked forward to and yet dreaded. I look forward to more freedom but I feel reservation that I will no longer have the security, purpose and stability in my life.

When young Airmen ask me if I enjoyed it all, I tell them this. It is amazing how we remember the good times and very little bad. I try to think back on the bad to see if I could remember.

The first thing that came to mind was my orders to Hahn AB, Germany, from technical school in 1973. I was told I couldn't take my family with me. I was only a one striper and you had to be an E-4 to be command sponsored. I was going on a two year unaccompanied tour, unthinkable to my wife and I. We had been married over six years with two sons.

After receiving permission from my commander at Hahn, we managed to pay the family's way ourselves. We lived a very meager life for over two years until I put on E-4. We stayed an extra year and received command sponsorship the last year.

When we look back it was probably the best times of our lives. We did so much together as a family since we didn't have money to do anything luxurious like have a television set, go out to eat or go on trips. Of course, the military changed that and if the Air Force sends you overseas you can take your family.

The worst bad memory is the one-year remote to Korea. There never is a good time to leave your family and I didn't have a choice. I just received my line number for master sergeant. The entire experience almost ended our marriage but thanks to a wonderful wife who never gave up, we held it together.

The last was my non-volunteer assignment to Wurtsmith AFB, Mich. However, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Michigan was beautiful and we made friends for life there.

I deployed for Desert Storm and, although we train to go to war, it was not my goal. But that is part of the



Chief Master Sgt. Ron Froseth and his wife Sharon

profession of arms and as distasteful as it is, it is what we train to do.

From a professional standpoint, it was the highlight of my career. After training for 17 years, my skills were put to the test and we did very well. I believe because we did what needed to be done the war ended quickly and casualties were minimal.

After the war we began the painful process of closing the base. Wurtsmith was another casualty of our cold war success.

The best things that I remember from my career are every time I made another rank. The time I was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Weapons Release Shop at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and I won Wing Senior NCO of the Year, one of my noncommissioned officers was Wing NCO of the year, and one of my Airmen was the runner up for Wing Airman of the Year.

Am I bragging? You bet I am. The shop worked hard to make it happen. They grilled us with questions, helped us prepare for the boards, and went over our uniforms meticulously.

These same folks self-help remodeled our shop into something we could all be proud of. We gave it up to someone else only six short months after completion. But they gave it up with professionalism. I am extremely proud of that great team.

During Desert Storm, we lost 40 percent of our weapons loaders to food poisoning at the peak of the war. The 60 percent left, also affected at varying levels, met every

sortie requirement on time. They did a phenomenal job and did not ask for anything in return. They loaded bomb after bomb while having to succumb to the effects of the food poisoning between bombs. It truly defined their spirit of dedication that we often forget is there.

I take great pride in the Weapons Standardization Team we built at Dyess AFB, Tex-

as. They built one of the best weapons-load training programs in Air Combat Command. I was just the figurehead; the master sergeant noncommissioned officer in charge made it happen. He took those 14 people to heights neither they nor I ever dreamed possible. They were the wing commander's number one requested dignitary visit tour.

Their camaraderie was the envy of the wing. When I left that team of folks I felt I was leaving family. By the way, that master sergeant is now Chief Master Sgt. Terry Searcy.

In 1996 the wing commander asked me to become his senior enlisted advisor, an opportunity that I had reservations about. I have never worked harder in my life and never felt so much reward. The great support from all of the people in the wing, especially the first sergeants and chiefs, my wonderful wife and the wing staff, made my success possible. The first sergeants really put the icing on the cake when they welcomed

me into their circle as an Honorary First Sergeant.

Of course, I can't forget all of the successes my children have achieved, which is a direct reflection on my wife. She shouldered the majority of the responsibility raising our children. While I was off playing Air Force, she had that unrelenting task of keeping the family going.

As you can tell, I feel very blessed for having such a successful Air Force career. Was it all roses? Of course not. Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. Am I ready to leave our Air Force for retirement? Hell no! But I do realize it is time for me to step aside and leave our country in younger hands.

I know those are good hands because I had the privilege of working and knowing the finest people in the world. The motto of "No One Comes Close" is so true and fits so well. Thank you for allowing me to explore my potential and being a part of the Best in the World! I leave with a heavy heart because I will miss it but with a great sense of accomplishment.

So, would I encourage others to join the Air Force? Absolutely, without any reservation. Is the Air Force perfect? No way, and I challenge you to find an organization without problems. But those problems are just opportunities.

You can join the Air Force with a high school education or a masters degree and you will still have an opportunity to serve your country and excel. You will have the opportunity to travel, experience different cultures, work with people who share the same desires and goals and get paid. You will not get rich but you will live comfortably and you know your life has meaning.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Opportunities abound but you have to be willing to reach for them!